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Watching 'Em Legislate

Sidelights on Our Solons
Observed This Week for
the Torrance Herald by
the United Press

SACRAMENTO. — Speaking of men's dress reform, Mayor George L. Baker of Portland, Ore., is perhaps the first man who ever delivered a formal address before California's august Senate, attended in comfortable-looking and well-worn golf knickerbockers.

And, still speaking of clothes, Senator William E. Harper, San Diego, had an objection to offer the other day. During a discussion of the disposition of a resolution seeking an oil investigation, Harper rose up with a certain dignified indignation and exclaimed: "We members of the oil industries committee already have heard the seats of our trousers at hearings on this very question."

While the Assembly apparently has agreed to disagree, there nevertheless was a certain unanimity of opinion the day the resolution was settled. Winners and losers in the battle smiled, sighed and took on expressions that clearly indicated a "well, that's that" attitude.

Even senators reveal a "little boy" complex now and then. The other day Senator J. M. Inman, Sacramento, turned to Lieutenant Governor Frank F. Merriam, and pleaded: "Make him sit down." He was referring to Senator Arthur H. Breed, Oakland, who insisted he be heard. A few minutes later Will R. Sharkey, Martinez, voiced his almost daily cry of "when do we eat?"

There are different ways of working in the Senate, Orleans Indian, was appearing before the Assembly fish and game committee in connection with a salmon bill. "How do you work?" the Indian was asked when he said he lived on salmon and accords. "Yes-no," was the answer. When further questioned Jerry admitted he worked in the mines, except that they had been closed down for several years.

When you have to sign your name more than 1000 times within a week and each time with the proper flourish, it's necessary to have good tools. Governor Rolph, whose signature must be on each of the 1150 new state park bonds, is using a special pen made for him in the east, and each time it is dipped into an equally special bottle of india ink.

The discussion was heated, and the senate well divided over a proposal to amend the law relative to the list of personal property exempt from attachment. Senator Ralph E. Swinn, San Bernardino, was urging that automobiles valued up to \$500 and used for business be included in the bill to moderate the measure by replacing the "horse and buggy" items. "What you really mean, Senator," said Senator Charles H. Duval, Chico, "is that the old gray mare ain't what she used to be."

A high school class from a nearby town arrived at the capitol the other day expecting to find the Assembly chamber ringing with legislative debate. The Assembly, however, had adjourned. A group of disappointed students, seeing the classes' disappointment, decided to put on a session for the students. A three-foot "speaker" climbed to the rostrum, others took assembly seats—and the way they passed bills!

Senator Henry E. Carter, Los Angeles, who has been active in nine sessions of the state legislature as a senator, was questioned concerning procedure. "I am surprised I should be asked such a question," he said. "Well," answered Senator C. C. Baker, San Diego, "I really didn't expect you'd be able to answer it." All of which is an example of the gay and friendly repartee that features meetings of the upper house.

Everybody was thinking of Los Angeles in "big city" terms until "Bob" Kinney, Los Angeles, spilled the beans. A bill was being discussed relative to live stock inspections. "Why," said Kinney in answer to a question, "there are hundreds of herds of livestock right in Los Angeles." Positively pastoral, as it were.

A bill to provide a Los Angeles county probation board of seven discreet members was being discussed in committee. "There aren't that many discreet persons in Los Angeles," said one member. "Oh, yes," answered Senator Herbert Slater of Santa Rosa. "There's Aimee McPherson, Miss Carlos Hardy, Rep. 'Bob' Shuler, Mayor John S. Horton, Kent Parrott, Baron Pitts and Justice Gavin Crank."

OPPORTUNITY FOR MEN

There is an opportunity for two or three more men to learn how to use a lathe, shaper, planer and other machine shop equipment at the Torrance Evening High school. Those interested in work of that kind should enroll at the school—there is no charge of any kind—Monday or Tuesday, Principal Guy L. Mowry will talk.

Mrs. John Knox of Los Angeles was a Torrance visitor Wednesday.

Ordinance For Annex Election Is Adopted

With the final reading and adoption Tuesday night of the ordinance calling a special election May 26 to decide whether or not the northern portion of Long Beach will annex to the city of Torrance, everything is in readiness for the balloting at one polling place.

This will be at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Hills, at 2844 Eighth street. The territory included in the annexation election totals approximately 560 acres and has an estimated population of 125 residents.

SITTING AROUND the Council Table

Assistant Appointed
A. D. Stevenson was appointed assistant fire chief on the recommendation of Councilman R. R. Smith, police and fire commissioner at council meeting this week. Stevenson has been acting assistant to Fire Chief Ben Hannebrink.

No Title Report Yet
No report has been received from the title company searching the records of a portion of the McDonald Tract which desires the long-proposed street plan in that vicinity be abandoned and the area revert back to farm land. City Engineer Leonard reported.

To Get Statements
Written statements will be taken from Briney, plan to go ahead with a suit to quiet title. The street was posted as being a private right-of-way by the City of Torrance Corporation several months ago.

Walteria Hydrants Ordered
Suggested by Mayor Dennis, the council voted to contract with Charles Quandt for the installation of hydrants and water standby service at six points in Walteria. The city will pay for the hydrants and Quandt is to furnish free service until the installation cost is wiped out at its usual rate of \$2 per month per hydrant. The hydrants will cost approximately \$10 to install.

Nothing but all-steel oil derricks will be allowed in Torrance when the council passes an ordinance in the near future that was suggested by Councilman Ed Nelson this week.

BETTY BARCLAY'S HELPFUL HINTS



Today Betty Says:
HUNDREDS of women insist that they cannot make a good lemon pie—at least not so good as others they have tasted. Probably more requests for recipes for this delicious dessert are mailed to dietitians and food experts, than for almost any other dish. Here is one recipe that I feel sure will please:

Lemon Pie Supreme
1 cup sugar 1/2 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 cups boiling water 1/2 cup lemon juice
3 tablespoons cornstarch Grated rind 1 lemon
3 tablespoons flour
Sift dry ingredients. Add water and cook in double boiler until thick (15 minutes). Add slightly beaten egg yolks and cook 2 minutes longer. Then add lemon juice and grated rind. Cool and turn into baked pie shell. Cover with meringue made by heating egg whites until frothy—adding 4 tablespoons sugar and 1/2 teaspoon baking powder and continue beating until stiff. Put into moderate oven (325 degrees) for 15 minutes to brown.

Another Notice Sent P. E. About Boulevard

For the purpose of clearing all doubt in the matter of the city's right-of-way on Pacific Electric to either construct the remaining track on its right-of-way on Torrance (Redondo) boulevard or relinquish its rights to the property, another 30 days' notice was given the railway company by the City Council Tuesday night.

At the end of this period the city can either then go ahead and improve the right-of-way or bring suit to quiet title. City Attorney Perry G. Briney told the council. A similar notice was given the Pacific Electric several months ago and no reply has been received by the city as yet.

Nere's More About— WHY DOES TORRANCE NEED A CHARTER?

(Continued from Page 1-A)

surely not. It would be a case of the "fall wagging the dog." Such matter can be controlled by the adoption of a charter for Torrance, so that future annexationists may have a voice in the government of Torrance but the control will remain with the present townspeople.

2. At present, Torrance has no charter. It is operating under the general laws of the State of California, just as hundreds of small hamlets and cross-road towns throughout the rural districts of the state are being governed. Certainly the second largest city in Los Angeles County cannot be governed to the best advantage under such restricted regulations, especially when this city is a highly developed and specialized city. A charter would give to Torrance the same flexibility and advantages as such municipalities as Inglewood, Glendale, Santa Monica, Long Beach, and Los Angeles enjoy, all of which are chartered cities.

3. As conditions now exist, municipal legislation and procedure are subject to the trickery of horse-trading politicians at Sacramento, who certainly are not informed on, nor concerned with Torrance problems. With a charter, Torrance would divorce itself from these dangers and run its own affairs for the benefit and protection of Torrance residents. That's why the term "freeholders" charter is used.

4. This question of a freeholders' charter for Torrance has been discussed for over five years. It is not a new proposition. Far-sighted citizens have repeatedly pointed to the need of adopting a charter. It takes two elections to adopt a charter, and in order to save the expense of one of these elections, it is suggested that the first of these elections be held at the time of voting on the proposed park bond issue. At that time, 15 freeholders would be chosen, who would draft the charter and submit it at another election. At this second election, the charter may be adopted or rejected by a majority vote, and if adopted, will become effective as soon as ratified by the State Legislature. There is no expense attached to the entire charter question, except the cost of the elections. The 15 freeholders serve without pay, and the Herald believes with others interested in the charter proposition, that these freeholders should represent a cross section of the entire civic life, so that the charter they write will represent the best thoughts of fair minded citizens in every walk of life throughout the city. It should be a charter that will benefit all the people of Torrance. Controversial matters such as the school situation, salaries for councilmen, and all such matters should be left as they now exist, but provisions made in the charter for their change in the future whenever the majority of Torrance people vote to change them.

In order to call the election for the 15 freeholders, it is necessary to secure a petition signed by 15 per cent of the registered voters in Torrance at the last general election. The Herald urges every voter in Torrance who is approached to sign this petition to do so, as the time is limited. If the cost of the first election is to be avoided by grouping it with the park bond issue, the petitions must be filed with the city clerk by Monday evening.

We are putting a number of vital civic problems behind us lately. Let us add another worthy accomplishment by adopting a city charter that will take Torrance out of its swaddling clothes and into the garments of the full grown city which it has become.

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